



## **MAPPS Statement on 3DEP**

MAPPS ([www.mapps.org](http://www.mapps.org)), the national association of private sector geospatial firms, strongly supports the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) developed by the US Geological Survey (USGS).

3DEP will satisfy the growing demand for consistent, high-quality topographic data and a wide range of other three-dimensional representations of the Nation's natural and constructed features. Among the applications that will benefit from 3DEP data are flood risk management, agriculture, water supply, homeland security, renewable energy, aviation safety, and other areas. Indeed, USGS has identified more than 600 applications that would benefit from such enhanced elevation data.

MAPPS believes 3DEP will promote economic growth, facilitate responsible environmental protection and resource development and management, assist with infrastructure improvement, and generally enhance the quality of life of all Americans.

The USGS, with involvement from the private sector and other stakeholders, conducted a National Enhanced Elevation Assessment (NEEA), to determine and document the need for national elevation data within government and private markets. The results indicated that enhanced elevation data have the potential to generate \$13 billion in annual benefits, at a benefit:cost ratio of 4.7 to 1.

A capable, qualified private sector capacity exists to fulfill the data acquisition requirements of 3DEP. Utilizing the Geospatial Products and Services Contract (GPSC), a suite of multiple-award USGS contracts with the private sector competitively procured via the qualifications based selection process pursuant to 40 USC 1101 and FAR part 36.6, provides a public-private partnership between USGS and the private sector to accomplish 3DEP via task orders for LIDAR acquisition. MAPPS strongly supports the USGS intent to utilize these contracts for 3DEP data collection and processing.

The equipment infrastructure and service capacity and capability of the private sector, as well as the contract vehicles in USGS, are in place to efficiently implement the 3DEP program. Moreover, Congress provided an innovative mechanism for cooperative activities in elevation data when it enacted section 100220 of Public Law 112-141, which can be utilized to pool funding from Federal, state and local government entities.

MAPPS respectfully urges the Obama Administration, Congress and the states, to cooperatively fund the 3DEP program at its optimal annual level of \$146 million.

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